

# COMMUNITY SOLUTIONS PROGRAM

Are you currently engaged in community development work? Do you have the potential to be a leader and change-maker in your community? Are you looking for a career development opportunity to increase your professional skills, experience and networks? If you answered yes to the above questions, the [Community Solutions Program](#) may be the one for you.

The American Center is happy to announce that the 2017 **Community Solutions Program** is now open. This is the seventh year of the [Community Solutions Program](#), a professional development program for the best and brightest global community leaders.

The Community Solutions Program (CSP), sponsored by the Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA) and implemented by IREX, provides the best and brightest community leaders from around the world with an intensive, four-month U.S.-based, professional development program that includes a substantive hands-on learning experience in the United States. Community Solutions leaders work in one of four technical areas: Environmental Issues, Tolerance and Conflict Resolution, Transparency and Accountability, and Women and Gender Issues. Through tailored fellowships and the Community Leadership Institute (CLI), leaders gain valuable experience in U.S.-based community work, increase skills and knowledge, strengthen their capacity for leadership and development in their home countries, bring years of experience to community development in the United States, and create action plans for community-based initiatives back home.

## PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

- **Four-month U.S.-based fellowship:** CSP fellows are matched with non-profit organizations, private entities, and government offices across the United States where they work with peers (or U.S. colleagues) on initiatives related to issues they face in their own communities.
- **Community Leadership Institute:** The cornerstone of CSP is the Community Leadership Institute, a leadership academy that provides customized learning and coaching to each CSP Leader. The CLI uses a blended-learning approach, where leaders participate in online sessions and in-person workshops, receive professional coaching, engage in experiential learning through tailored professional fellowships at U.S. host institutions, and interact with other professionals in their field. CSP enables fellows to work across the multiple communities— their individual fellowship cohort, the larger CSP alumni community, their U.S. host community, and their home community — to learn and disseminate knowledge and best practices aimed at generating positive community change.
- **Community-based initiatives:** CSP fellows develop innovative community action projects in collaboration with their U.S. host institutions and implement them after they return to their home countries. Project summaries are made available online, allowing fellows to share their work with other community leaders around the world.
- **International network of community development professionals:** CSP fellows continue to network and collaborate with like-minded leaders from around the world on global development issues

through alumni activities and opportunities offered through the online Community Leadership Institute platform.

### **Eligibility Criteria:**

- Applicants must be between the ages of 25-38 as of January 1, 2017
- Applicants must have at least two years of experience working on community development, either as a full-time or part-time employee or volunteer
- Applicants must be living and working in their home country (individuals with refugee status working on behalf of their home community may be given special consideration)
- Applicants must have a high level of proficiency in spoken and written English

**The application deadline is Friday, November 18, 2016.** The application, along with additional information about the 2017 Community Solutions Program, is available online at:  
<http://www.irex.org/project/community-solutions>.

All applications must be submitted online. However, if you have any questions, please contact Parveen Elias at the American Center at [EliasPX@state.gov](mailto:EliasPX@state.gov) or call 2-5566-2815.